

Man's Best Friend

Dogs have been friends with humans for thousands of years. Certainly we've all heard that "A dog is man's best friend." But just how close is this bond between people and dogs?

Consider the story about a dog named Odie. Odie was found by a mom named Stacy and her two sons. Chris was eleven and Riley was twenty. While Chris was healthy Riley had been sick with serious health problems.

The boys were excited about finding Odie. But Stacy made it clear they could not keep him. Instead, they all worked to put out flyers in the neighborhood to help find Odie's owner. Four days had passed with no one claiming the dog.

On the fifth day Stacy returned home from work to find Odie barking. When Stacy entered the house, Odie ran back to Riley's bedroom. Stacy ran after Odie to find Riley was lying on his bed, choking. All of a sudden Odie became completely silent. Riley was then rushed to the hospital where he recovered.

Two days later Odie's owner saw him on the flyer and called Stacy. When the man arrived both boys were crying. Stacy told the man how Odie had alerted her to Riley's emergency. The man finally told Stacy that "Maybe Odie was supposed to have found you and maybe you should keep him."

Another story is about Captain, a German shepherd. Captain's owner was quite old and he passed away. The man was laid to rest in a cemetery far away from home. One day Captain was seen sitting by himself next to his master's grave. He had somehow found his master in a place he had never been! From then on Captain was seen visiting his master's grave every day at six in the evening.

These are just two stories about people and their dogs. And now science has confirmed that the dog and human bond is real. The "love hormone" that is shared between people exists between dogs and people too! While we've known for a long time that dogs and humans are best friends, we now have scientific proof.

1. What was the name of the first dog in the passage?
 - a. Stacy
 - b. Odie
 - c. Chris
 - d. Captain
2. What is meant in the passage by the word “bond”?
 - a. To be next to each other
 - b. An official document
 - c. To hold together
 - d. A special relationship
3. How do you think Chris and Riley felt when their mother told them they could not keep Odie?
 - a. Disappointed
 - b. Sure she would change her mind
 - c. Mad at their mom
 - d. Relieved
4. Which of the following is the best word to describe Captain?
 - a. Lost
 - b. Loyal
 - c. Depressed
 - d. Hopeful
5. In this passage a “flyer” refers to what?
 - a. A person on an airplane
 - b. A message on a paper
 - c. Time that goes by quickly
 - d. A person who is a time traveler